

NORTH DAKOTA CROP, LIVESTOCK & WEATHER REPORT



North Dakota
Agricultural
Statistics Service

Cooperating With:

NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE,
FARM SERVICE AGENCY,

ND AG WEATHER NETWORK (NDAWN) and
UND AEROSPACE REGIONAL WEATHER
INFORMATION CENTER

Released: March 29, 2004

For Month Ending: March 28, 2004

ND-CW1304

General: March began with wet conditions and cold temperatures but ended with above normal temperatures, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. This past weekend's heavy rains caused overland flooding and some road damage in northeast and east central districts. Calving and lambing are progressing ahead of last year. Producers are preparing machinery and lining up inputs for spring planting. Some fertilizer applications and fieldwork have occurred in the southwest.

On average statewide, there was 0.8 of an inch of snow cover on March 28, 2004, down from 0.4 of an inch on March 31, 2003 and 10.8 inches February 29, 2004. The northwest district reported the most snow cover with an average of 4.0 inches followed by 2.2 inches in the north central district. The northeast and west central districts were the only other districts to report measurable snow cover. County and secondary roads were rated 88 percent open, 9 difficult and 3 closed. Road conditions were rated 68 percent dry, 31 muddy, 1 icy and 0 drifted.

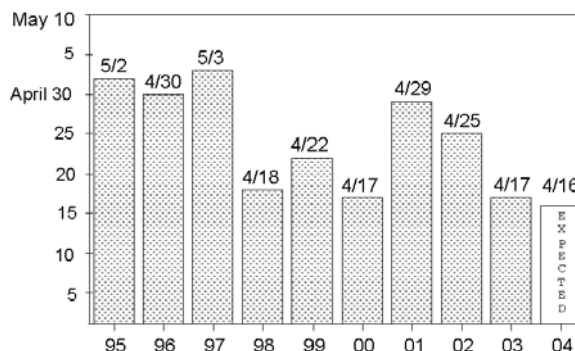
Crops: The statewide average starting date for fieldwork is expected to be April 16, 2004, 1 day ahead of last year. The expected starting dates range from April 8 in the southwest district to April 27 in the north central district.

Livestock: Calving and lambing progressed during March with some difficulties occurring due to wet and cold conditions. Muddy conditions affecting livestock were reported in several counties throughout the state. Calves are reported heavier than normal in the southwest. Calving was 41 percent complete and lambing was 61 percent complete compared with 39 and 55 percent last year, respectively. Shearing was 76 percent complete. Cattle conditions were rated 2 percent poor, 24 fair, 66 good and 8 excellent. Calf conditions were 2 percent poor, 18 fair, 71 good and 9 excellent. Sheep conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 3 poor, 21 fair, 65 good and 10 excellent.

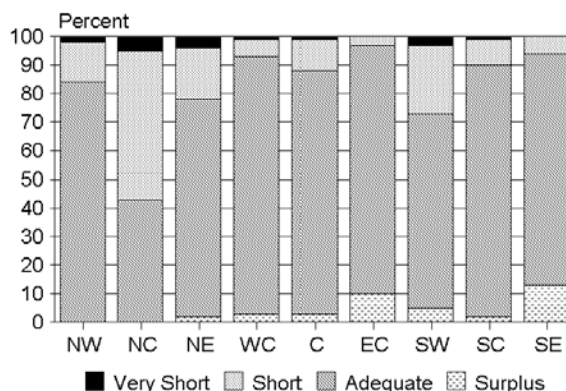
Lamb conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 2 poor, 20 fair, 67 good and 10 excellent.

Current supplies of hay and forage were rated 2 percent very short, 15 short, 79 adequate and 4 surplus. This compares to a rating last year of 5 percent very short, 21 short, 72 adequate and 2 surplus. Grain and concentrate supplies were 3 percent short, 92 adequate and 5 surplus. Five percent of pastures were growing, but 95 percent were still dormant.

Average Starting Date For Fieldwork
North Dakota, 1995-2004



Hay & Forage Supplies by District
North Dakota, March 28, 2004



~ Compiled and Published by ~

N.D. Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA ■ P.O. Box 3166 ■ Fargo, ND 58108 ■ 701-239-5306

E-mail: nass-nd@nass.usda.gov ■ Internet: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/nd/>

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Penalty for Private Use, \$300

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NORTH DAKOTA CROP WEATHER REPORT, Month Ending March 28, 2004

Page Two

Weather: After a long and cold winter it looked as if spring was emerging during the month of March. While there were a few hints of winter with light snowfall in the early days of the month, things warmed up nicely as the end of March neared. Most cities experienced average and above average monthly temperatures with most in the southern zones seeing average temps 5 to 10 degrees above normal. Monthly high temperatures were quite nice across the entire state with the warm spots, Oakes and Linton, both reporting 70 degrees with many reporting temperatures in the 60s. Monthly low temperatures still dipped below zero in some places with both Forest River and Langdon seeing the mercury fall the furthest with temperatures as cold as -8 degrees. While there was some snow during the month, there were also thunderstorms and rain showers with the warmer temperatures. The last weekend of March brought heavy rains to the state with many locations picking up at least an inch of rain. The areas hardest hit were the Devils Lake basin and north eastern North Dakota where rainfall totals were, in some places, in excess of 3.00 inches.

Outlook, April: Average temperatures and precipitation are expected for the month of April this year. Average high temperatures are generally in the mid-50s with average lows slipping back to the low 30s. One can also expect about 1.00 to 1.50 inches of precipitation during the month.

TEMPERATURE, March 1-28, 2004

| District & Stations | Temperature | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|-----|---------|---------------------------|
| | High | Low | Average | Depart/Norm ^{1/} |
| (Degrees F) | | | | |
| NORTHWEST | 58 | -2 | 28 | 2 |
| Bowbells | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Williston | 64 | 1 | 33 | 5 |
| Mohall | 50 | -5 | 22 | -3 |
| Minot | 59 | -1 | 29 | 4 |
| NORTH CENTRAL | 47 | -4 | 21 | -1 |
| Baker | 49 | -3 | 23 | 1 |
| Bottineau | 45 | -6 | 20 | -2 |
| NORTHEAST | 51 | -7 | 22 | -2 |
| Cando | 46 | -5 | 20 | -5 |
| Cavalier | 53 | -7 | 23 | -1 |
| Forest River | 55 | -8 | 24 | 0 |
| Grand Forks | 55 | -7 | 24 | 0 |
| Langdon | 46 | -8 | 19 | -3 |
| St. Thomas | 53 | -7 | 23 | -1 |
| WEST CENTRAL | 65 | 2 | 33 | 5 |
| Hazen | 67 | 4 | 35 | 8 |
| Turtle Lake | 62 | -2 | 30 | 3 |
| Watford City | 64 | 3 | 34 | 3 |
| CENTRAL | 62 | 0 | 31 | 5 |
| Carrington | 58 | 1 | 30 | 6 |
| Harvey | 59 | -1 | 29 | 2 |
| Jamestown | 66 | 1 | 34 | 7 |
| Robinson | 63 | 0 | 32 | 6 |
| Streeter | 64 | -1 | 32 | 5 |
| EAST CENTRAL | 56 | -2 | 27 | 1 |
| Dazey | 55 | -2 | 26 | 0 |
| Fargo | 60 | 0 | 30 | 4 |
| Hillsboro | 52 | -3 | 25 | -1 |
| SOUTHWEST | 67 | 10 | 39 | 9 |
| Beach | 67 | 11 | 39 | 9 |
| Bowman | 68 | 9 | 39 | 10 |
| Dickinson | 67 | 9 | 38 | 9 |
| Hettinger | 68 | 11 | 39 | 9 |
| SOUTH CENTRAL | 70 | 2 | 36 | 8 |
| Bismarck | 69 | 3 | 36 | 8 |
| Linton | 70 | 2 | 36 | 7 |
| SOUTHEAST | 69 | 3 | 36 | 9 |
| Edgeley | 69 | 3 | 36 | 7 |
| Oakes | 70 | 5 | 37 | 11 |
| Wyndmere | 68 | 3 | 36 | 8 |

^{1/} Normal is the 1961-90 average. NA=Not Available. Weather data collected from NDAWN stations and compiled by UND Aerospace Regional Weather Information Center.